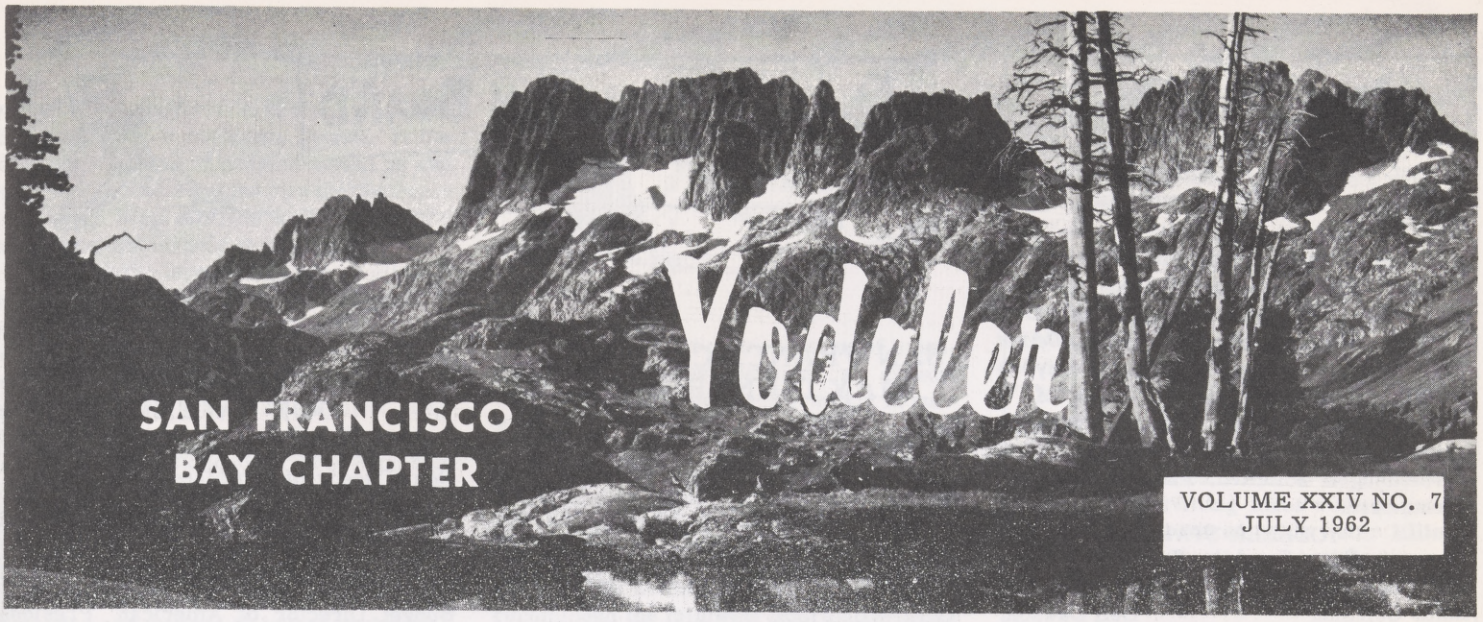


Yodeler

SAN FRANCISCO BAY CHAPTER

VOLUME XXIV NO. 7
JULY 1962

RECREATION IN THE DELTA

About two years ago recreationists who loved the tree-lined waterways of the Delta were horrified to find the Reclamation districts, through the Army Engineers, embarked on a program of stripping all growth and wildlife from many of the levees which line the waterways. The resulting outcry brought hasty action to halt the clearance on specially popular stretches of riverbank, and a study committee representing legislators, water, fish and game, reclamation officials was set up by the State. The report of this committee was published late in 1961 and we summarize it here.

All committee members were enthusiastic about the recreation opportunities of the Delta and agreed it is a unique resource which must be preserved for public enjoyment and that its beauty lies in the wooded river banks and wildlife. Then they presented some very cold facts. The State owns only the underwater riverbed. The levees, berms (flat wooded areas between water and levee), access roads, all belong to the farmer behind them, who pays for their upkeep either directly or through district taxes. The public on the levee is trespassing. The business of a levee is not only to keep out floods but also to pass water along as smoothly and quickly as possible, and the most efficient and cheapest levee is covered only by grass, with a skirting of rock along the waterline. No wildlife is allowed, it makes holes. No heavy plant growth should be there to hide possible cracks or seepage in time of flood. Tree covered berms are permissible and in fact useful but in most main waterways the original berms have long since eroded away and sunk. Wave action from increasing numbers of steamers and speedboats undercuts the banks at the waterline (on a recent trip up the river road we noted the surprising

CONTINUED PAGE THREE

SONOMA COUNTY CAR CAMPING

The weekend of May 19-20 saw one of the most interesting and delightful car camping outings of the year. About 45 members assembled at Fort Ross on Saturday morning under the leadership of Pat Bauer.



With the thought that the more we knew about the area where we were to camp, the better we would enjoy it, Pat and her assistant, Evelyn Livesey, had prepared "outing kits" so that each family or individual could have one. Each kit contained, first, a 3-page mimeographed pamphlet giving campsite, special rules for the trip, geology and history of the area, and a comprehensive list of early settlers whose names now designate various cities, towns and localities. Second, a Sonoma County map through the courtesy of the California State Auto Association. The Map was made over by mapmaker Evelyn, by adding names of all points of interest and the line of the San Andreas fault as well as other geologic data. Third, the printed brochure of the Fort Ross State Historical Monument.

The assembling of these kits involved a great deal of study, time and effort on the part of Pat and Evelyn, and they deserve much praise for an unusually good job.

Having looked over these kits, we were all ready and anxious to resume our journey. Pat led us to the Sand Point Ranch,

CONTINUED PAGE THREE

CHAPTER CONSERVATION

The San Francisco Bay Chapter Conservation Committee traditionally holds its last meeting of the season in June, but this year it decided to continue meeting during the summer if enough members can attend. The Committee hopes to have a second chance to educate the public on the need for State Parks. All the bond issues suffered from the "Too many; Too Much; Too Fast" reaction of the voters to the many bond issues on the ballot. The State Park bonds lost by so small a margin that it is obvious we must present it again as soon as possible. There is important work to be done in publicizing the need for parks. All can help by finding out where the ignorance lies in our own cities. Figures are available through county offices and will show a surprising variation. For example a precinct in North Berkeley voted 123-16 for the park bonds while one in the Claremont district was 75-80 against.

The Chapter Conservation Committee has been collecting material on Tote Gotes and other mechanical monsters which invade the trails. William Engs, Pat Bauer, and Margo Gwinn have been working on this and also on damage by motorcyclists to the University of California property on Grizzly Peak Boulevard. A report to the University brought a cordial reply and an invitation to report such vehicles to the University police (not Berkeley City Police) when license numbers can be noted. Thelma Carder and the Conservation Education Committee are working on a display showing the damage done by Tote Gotes to trails, meadows, and open wild lands. Pat Bauer showed the committee the Car Camping Kit she had prepared for all the group on the Fort Ross trip on May 17. It consists of a large scale map of the area, with three mimeographed sheets attached. These give camp information

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Sierra Club Yodeler

A publication of the San Francisco Bay Chapter. Address all communications to Yodeleditor, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco 4

For club members only, classified ads (private transactions), will be accepted at the rate of 35¢ per line of printed copy. The 'enterprise' rate is 70¢ per line. Persons submitting ads may compute their copy on the basis of approximately 7 words per line. Check must accompany copy. Commercial advertising is solicited. Please request rate card.

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S. F. DINNER

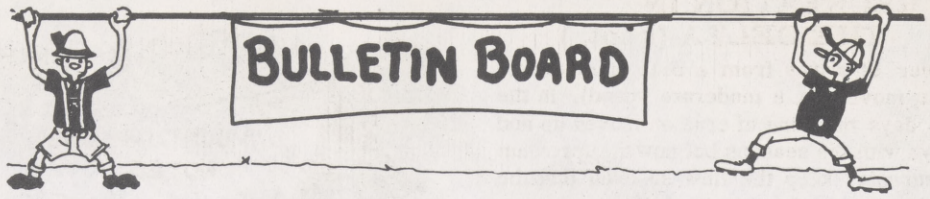
Come to Golden Gate Yacht Club on Thursday, July ~~27~~, for the usual excellent dinner and an unusual after-dinner treat: "Wilderness Alps of Stehekin", a magnificent color/sound motion picture which has captured the unrivaled beauty of the Northern Cascades. Dave Brower, Executive Director of the Sierra Club, plans to be with us to give us his personal account of the current fight for the Cascades National Park protection.

Social Hour: 6:15 to 7:15 p.m.
Dinner: 7:15 p.m., $2.00

Limit 150 people. Reservations required. Please call Dorothy Jones, OR 3-6792, or Elsbeth Nagel, PR 5-2492 before 9 p.m. July 24th.

Change in those taking reservations is because Elizabeth Holland will be busy getting married - to Walter Ramsay.

FOR SALE: Washer, $100, Westinghouse. Clothes Dryer, 4 mos. old, 15# capac.,$100. Refrigerator, $125, 13 cu. ft., 50# freezer. Dishwasher, 4 mos. old, can be built in or portable, 12 place setting. Stove, $40. All nearly new and in excellent condition but moving to home with built-ins. Call Beverly Anderson (evenings) SEabright 1-8940.



SAN FRANCISCO MAY DINNER MEETING

Members of the San Francisco section of the Bay Area chapter turned out in force at the Golden Gate Yacht Club for their regular monthly dinner meeting the last Thursday in May, to hear Charlotte Mauk speak on her visit north of the Arctic Circle, during June of last year.

Charlotte illustrated her talk with colored slides, starting with the commercial jet that carried her away from San Francisco, the two-engine job she transferred to in Fairbanks, and the bush pilot's float plane that dropped her into Olaus and Marty Murie's wilderness camp in the south end of the Brooks Range in Alaska.

From this camp beside the Sheenjek River Charlotte recorded the miraculous spring change of tundra from brown to green, the brilliant surge of wildflowers, in particular the crimson rhododendrons, the leafing of the dwarf trees, the vast skies and snow-peaked mountains, endlessly changing day and night (for the sun rises there shortly after midnight), and the migrating caribou.

It was an informative as well as entertaining evening guaranteed to turn other hardy souls to their atlases and checkbooks.

Mary Jasperson

ADMINISTRATIVE MGR. DON TWEEDY

On June 13, the office staff welcomed Don Tweedy of San Mateo, California, as Administrative Manager of the Sierra Club. The scope of this new position is much broader than that of the former position of office manager. Mr. Tweedy was formerly Budget Director of American President Lines. He was formerly chairman of the San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Commission and he is active in scouting.

BOOKS AND FILMS

The film brochure, "Nature Next Door," will be published and available for purchase from the Club Office for 75¢ sometime in July.

"High Country Conifers of the Sierra Nevada," a pocket-size key to conifers prepared by Edwin L. Braun, Chairman of the Knapsack Subcommittee of the Outings Committee, is now available in the Club Office for 25¢.

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CHAPTER CONSERVATION (cont.)

rules for campers, and then go into a fine summary of the history, geology, botanical interest and other local items, with appropriate sidelights on conservation. The committee expressed great appreciation of Pat's effort and hoped the idea can be copied by others so that a file of such kits can be built up for use by trip leaders.

Larry Williams showed the first footage of a film he is making for the Chapter on Mt. Diablo State Park. He already has some good sequences of children playing, hikers on trails, and bird life on the mountain.

C.M.C.

RECREATION IN THE DELTA (cont.)

power of waves from a boat of moderate size moving at a moderate speed). In the old days this line of erosion moved up and down with the seasons but now the upstream reservoirs keep the flow so even that the damage comes largely in one line.

Certainly the levee banks can be allowed to grow trees and brush provided there is extra care and labor spent in watching constantly for topheavy trees, pruning overhanging branches, and watching for weak spots among the growth on the bank. Log booms can protect the shoreline from erosion and reduce the need for rockwork. But —who pays? The additional cost might be two million dollars a year. It is hardly fair, and quite impossible, to require the farmer to pay the extra costs, he is already plagued by costs of vandalism, litter, fire protection and damage to levees by the public. How can the recreationist be brought in to pay for the creation of beauty over and above mere efficiency?

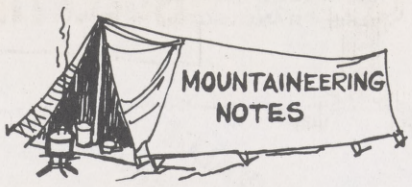
The report recommends several possibilities. Sample sections should be set up, perhaps just a twenty-five mile strip at first, where all kinds of vegetation should be tested. The State Department of Recreation should undertake creation of an area-wide plan for recreation in conjunction with the Army Engineers who are now permitted to include recreation in their studies when requested by the State authorities. More "encroachment permits" can be issued to farmers who are willing, and even happy, to allow their levees to retrain tree growth. At present, if a farmer wants to repair his levees, he has to follow the standard procedure. The State can acquire public access rights to certain levees, allowing better control of the public. Seven areas are recommended for special development for recreation: Steamboat Slough, The Meadows (Snodgrass Slough) and sections of the Byron-Stockton Highway, are some of them. Careful surveys should be made of the changes which the mighty California Water Plan will make in the Delta. For example, the east section will be completely isolated from the rest by the cross delta channel. Locks for small craft will be needed there and at other points. The proposals for bridges must be watched to see that clearance is maintained for all craft.

Recreation man-days in the Delta were 2,780,000 in 1960. Big business as well as big pleasure goes with such use. Somehow, the report insists, ways must be found to keep the best of the waterways unspoiled.

C.M.C.

CONSERVATION

The Point Reyes Bill is still pending before the House Rules Committee. Congressman Wayne Aspinall told the White House Conference on Conservation, held May 24 and 25, that he expects the Rules Committee will hold a hearing "within two or three weeks."



To get the most enjoyment out of mountaineering we must consider all aspects of the sport - from glacier walkin in pursuit of a summit to pure rock climbing.

We have been presenting articles by people in the section on various aspects of mountaineering safety, their feelings and experiences. Now we would like to suggest some writings by the professionals who have been higher or further than we. We highly recommend the following informative books for your adventuresome minds:

Why do men climb: James Ramsey Ullman answers this question in "The Age of Mountaineering". "Man conquers not the mountains, but himself." He explains how it all started, including the first ascents of the world's major peaks and the development of mountaineering techniques.

"The Conquest of Everest" by Sir John Hunt is one of the finest books on Himalayan climbing.

"Mount Rainier: A Record of Exploration," by Edward S. Meany is an account of geology and early ascents of the mountain.

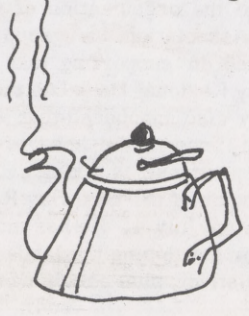
How strong is the will to live? Alfred Lansing's "Endurance" tells of struggles for survival in Antarctica.

The reading of "Scott's Last Expedition" the journals of Captain R. F. Scott, and "The Crossing of Antarctica" by Vivian Fuchs and Sir Edmond Hillary offers a comparison between different methods of crossing Antarctica.

"Sledge Patrol" by David Howarth is about cold weather experiences in Greenland during the war.

To supplement your reading we invite you to join the Mountaineering Discussion Groups announced in the Schedule.

Doug Peterson



SONOMA COUNTY CAR CAMPING (cont.)

about 10 miles up the coast. After locating campsite we drove up to Plantation, through the Kruse Rhododendron Park, but were a little late to see the best of the flowers. At Plantation Ranch, we were met by the owner, Mrs. A. B. Crittenden, who led us to a picnic spot, through a beautiful forest of Douglas fir, madrone, maple, and other native trees. Huckleberry was in abundance and many flowers were in bloom.

This area, part of Plantation Ranch, lies right over the San Andreas Fault, and the otherwise normal topography has been somewhat disturbed. Due to earth subsidence, two interesting lakes were formed. Now partially covered with water lillies and surrounded by trees and other vegetation, they make very beautiful pictures.



In the afternoon we returned to Sand Point Ranch and set up camp. Some of us wandered over the rocks and salt pools along the shore, some hiked up wooded canyons, and some gathered wood for the evening campfire.

For Sunday, Pat had planned a leisurely two-mile hike to Stump Ranch, in a more or less sheltered cove, where we had lunch. Here there was some wading and foot bathing and just resting. Dozens of cormorants were seen nesting on nearby cliffs.



In the afternoon we returned to the cars and then home after a most satisfying outing.

Note: One of these kits is on file in the Club office and should be studied by all hike leaders, especially for overnight trips.

Harold G. Sharp

MEMBERSHIP

Club membership was 19,505 as of June 1, Opal Hartman reports, and memberships now in process will raise the total to 20,000 by mid-July. Opal says that changes of address take time, so please notify the Club Office as soon as possible in order that there may be no unnecessary delays in receiving Club publications or mail.

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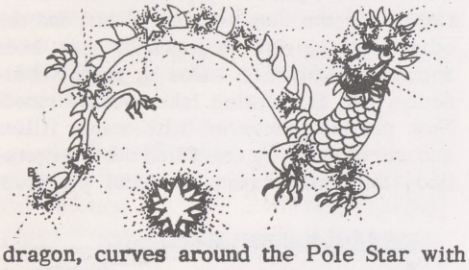
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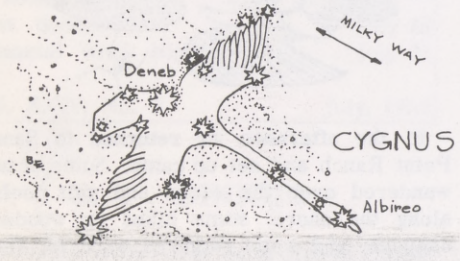
SUMMER SKIES STUDIED

The Natural Science Section had a preview of summer skies at their May 11 meeting, conducted by Dr. Helen Pillans of Mills College.

With the help of "Dial a Date" star maps, we learned the constellations which will sparkle in the Sierra skies over the summer trips. Among them are the Scorpion in the southern sky, with many small and one large bright red star. Draco, the



dragon, curves around the Pole Star with his tail dipping into the bowl of the Big Dipper. Cygnus, the flying swan, is a brilliant cross almost overhead; and the



Milky Way is especially bright in summer because we are in a position where we look through the densest part of our own great galaxy with its hundreds of thousands of stars.

Many thanks to Dr. Pillans for taking us so many light years in so short a time and on so interesting a trip through the stars.

C.M.C.

SUNOL VALLEY REGIONAL PARK

On June 10th, 85 hikers joined leaders Harold Sharp, Jane Scribner and Margaret Gwinn on an outing to Sunol Valley Regional Park, the newest addition to the East Bay Regional Park District. Formerly known as the Brinker Ranch, until acquired by the Park District last winter, the new park consists of 2776 acres of beautiful grasslands, trees, and some handsome rocky cliffs and crags.

Harold Sharp arranged with the San Francisco Water Department for us to hike along Calaveras Creek, on Water Department land, up to the Calaveras Dam. Our trail took us through creek bottoms, where the native sycamore grows, and up hot, grassy slopes to the welcome shade of oaks. We counted four species of oak; coast live oak, blue oak, valley oak, and black oak.

SUMMER TRIPS

Just in case you have not made your summer vacation plans, the Sierra Club Outing Committee wants to call your attention to the fact that several of the trips still have ample space.

Some of the River Trips, High Light Trips, Knapsack Trips and Threshold Trips are available for exploration and enjoyment of wilderness in the western United States and Canada. For more information, contact Bob Golden at the Club office, S.F.



We ate our lunch below the dam, by the refreshing spray of the aerator. Cicely Christy gave us an informative talk on the history of the East Bay Regional Park system, and the organization of the Regional Parks Association, a group of citizens interested in supporting and advising the East Bay Regional Park District.

Cicely also announced that William Penn Mott, at present the head of the Oakland Park Department, is taking over as Managing Director of the East Bay Regional Park District on July 1. He has many excellent ideas for developing the lands already part of the District, plus acquiring more land to

CONT. NEXT COLUMN

meet our ever growing population.

Our return route took us across the earth-fill dam to the county road. We saw several deer springing up the slopes, and were treated to a fine display of paternalism by a domestic bull. (Dan McCarthy, who supervises the Calaveras Reservoir for the Water Department, and checks to see that hikers are carrying the necessary visiting permit, assured us that the bull was "that way" about people.)

Two more outings scheduled for this Park, the Car Camping trip on June 16-17 and the Natural Science Section Field Trip on June 24, were designed to give hikers and campers an opportunity to discover the variety of experiences possible in this new park.

M. H. Gwinn

